

City NPA Memoiral Auditorium meeting
City Hall, Contois Auditorium
September 26, 2017
Draft Minutes

Steering Committee members present: Chris Trombly-Ward 7, Adrian Pascaul-Ward 3, Charles Simpson-Ward 6, Barbara McGrew, Martha Molpus-Ward 7, Nate Orshan-Ward 5, Jim Holway-Ward 4, Tony Redington-Ward 2

Start: 6:33pm

Chris Trombly-Welcome, Ground rules and Questionnaire

Purpose of NPAs is for public to share feedback. There has been a lot of Buzz about Memorial across the City. NPA joined together to have one forum for the public to voice their opinion about Memorial Auditorium.

Ground Rules: Respect the agenda and time keeper. Listen to others. Treat people respectfully.
The NPAs created a question

Video of Martha Keenan tour of Memorial Auditorium

Built in 1929 Memorial Auditorium housed national army, through the years had many recreation programs and activities, youth concerts, basketball games and housed and Generator and BCA office. The sprinklers is still working and up to code. There is no elevator in the building. Ramp was put in early 2000. It would take 15million to bring the building back and even this wouldn't restore back to original state. On board docs there is history of deferred maintenance. There was no intention to let the building go but can't stop the aging process also. Memorial has a lot character but has mason work that needs to be done. There are a lot of leaks that crack the bricks. In order to repair stability will need to take out the bricks and clean out pipes. New heating system will need to be installed. Windows are originals and will need to be replaced. See CCTV Memorial Auditorium

Video tour "A Visit with Memorial Auditorium"

<https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/memorial-auditorium-tour>

Tom Visser-Chair UVM Department of Historical Preservation

1926 Mayor put out plans to build City Hall without auditorium. Voters wanted a separate building with an auditorium which came about Memorial. The construction took multiple bonds that was voted on to finish Memorial. Memorial opened in 1928 and had 3000 people that attended followed with a lot of events; 1700 attended fire man's ball, boxing, 1000 attended Republican party, VT Democratic Party, UVM junior prom. By the 1950s was created into US immigration office. 60's saw many big name concerts such as Simon and Garfunkle. 80's there was also many concerts and event and the building was listed on National Registry. In 2012 came increasing concerns of safety and in 2016 the building was closed.

Alan Abair-Former Property Manager of Memorial Auditorium

Toured Memorial Auditorium with Ray Contois and got promoted to manage the auditorium. In the past there were sound difficulties which had to use cable from telephone company next door to improve sound quality. In 80's with Mayor Sanders the commitment was to improve arts community which a RFP was put together. Took over management to improve commercial and use. Memorial housed CEDO, BCA, Parks and also there was City basketball team that was established. There were so many concerts to reference all. Memorial contributed to impact of economic economy through, retail, restaurants, hotels, ticket sale, employment. There has not been anything done in past 20 years toward the basic need of Memorial. Challenge the City to keep this civic center.

Town Hall Style Open Forum

long relationship with Memorial due to playing past concerts. Have a history but if economics don't work out to save the building then should still have a civic center.

Moved here to go to UVM and went to a lot of concerts. Saw that Memorial brought people together without a high cost. Need to keep public space so people to come together. The City is a bad landlord

If tear Memorial down, then will regret because this structure is Burlington's legacy. This building and legacy can't be replaced by another building.

Teen center was very important place where youth can feel safe. It's important for the City to continue to allocate resources to youth.

Would like to see a paper record of who allowed the building to go into despair.

Burlington needs a civic center and can turn Memorial into a food hub and community kitchen that will be in line to the agriculture of the state

Appreciate NPA bring the issue of Memorial to a forum. There were many programs for youth to be safe and have fun. Concerned that our community is selling off too many of our civic centers.

Moved to Burlington for employment but really appreciated public infrastructure and spaces that improves the community. This is also a memorial of people who gave up their lives in WWII to fight for the country.

There is no public space to support musicians to be incubators
Burlington is being privatized. The NPAs leadership is bring awareness to this issue

Memorial serves as a commons where people can use very inexpensively. Appreciated in the winter times that there were events to go to such as indoor farmer's markets.

There is value in history, connection and beauty of architect. Would like to know why didn't invest and preserve building in the last 20 years.

Wards 2 and 3 NPA will be moving old St. Joseph space on 20 Allen St. St. Joseph renovations cost 8 million which was from Community Housing Trust. If can save this old civic space then can find money from the community that doesn't have to go through City council.

This is type of meeting is how NPA should run to have the people talk and not listen to officials

Really appreciate a space that can bring a diversity of people, events, and community together.

Visit Save 242 Main that was an institution to youth and should stay in the location which is Memorial Auditorium.

Need a downtown event venue that will house 1000 people so don't have to go to a hotel or UVM.

Impressed that Memorial could house large events such as a circus. What the City has is a real treasure and it would be a real loss for the community if we destroy it. Happy that NPAs are hosting this forum and hope it's a start for real neighborhood voices.

The City is very expensive to live but want to stay. Would love to have space to make row boats to get out on the lake in an affordable way. This is a creative way to use the space.

This meeting gives hope and enthusiasm. Need to bring those who are younger 20 years or younger to support this civic center.

Young people and recent immigrant people can have a great opportunity for job training to restore the building. This could bring more community cohesion.

NPAs have advisory authority to approval resolution to bring to Mayor and Council.

Decisions made are done really vaguely. The City was supposed to do a Request for Proposal but don't know if this will be done. What should be done is NPAs should get together a resolution to be proposed that City Councilors and Mayor pledge that Memorial Auditorium stay a public venue and that the NPA leads the charge to determine the future of Memorial.

After this the language of proposal will be brought to all 8 of NPA to decide how they want to vote. Each of the NPAs have their own bi-laws and are separate. Some NPAs will put resolution voting on their agenda and some will not.

Separate the resolution-Both voted on and passed.

1. Motion to advise Mayor and City Council to preserve Memorial Auditorium as publically owned commons

2. Motion to send the following resolution to advise the City Council to empower and honor a NPA lead a public process of Memorial that reflect citizen priorities.

End 8:41pm Notes taken by Phet Keomanyvanh-CEDO

